

Message Text

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PAGE 01 GENEVA 00935 131157Z

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ACTION IO-10

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INFO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

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TAGS: ECOSOC, SHUM

SUBJECT: HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION - ISRAELI STATEMENT ON SOVIET
JEWRY

1. DURING COURSE OF HRC MEETING FEBRUARY 12 ISRAELI
AMBASSADOR RONN, PERMREP IN GENEVA, SHOWED US DEL ADVANCE
COPY STATEMENT HE INTENDS TO DELIVER DURING GENERAL
DISCUSSION OF AGENDA ITEM RELATING TO HUMAN RIGHTS
VIOLATIONS. ISRAELI DELEGATION HAS BEEN ATTENDING HRC
SESSIONS AS OBSERVER, AND AS HAS BEEN THE CASE PREVIOUS
SESSIONS THEY HAVE USED DISCUSSION ON THIS ITEM (WHICH
IS ON HRC AGENDA EACH YEAR) TO MAKE STATEMENT ON SOVIET
AND SYRIAN JEWRY.

2. ISRAELI STATEMENT CONTAINS FOUR PAGES OF
DISCUSSION OF SITUATION OF SOVIET JEWRY WHICH CLOSES WITH
APPEAL TO SOVIET UNION TO "RECONSIDER ITS POLICY, REVISE
ITS PRACTICE AND CONFORM TO THE PRINCIPLES WHICH IT HAS
SO OFTEN ENDORSED IN ITS PUBLIC STATEMENTS."

3. ISRAELI STATEMENT CONTAINS FOLLOWING REFERENCE
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PAGE 02 GENEVA 00935 131157Z

TO US-USSR UNDERSTANDING RE ISSUE OF JEWISH EMIGRATION:

QTE. THE GOVERNMENT OF ISRAEL DEEPLY APPRECIATES THE FACT THAT THE PRESIDENT AND THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES HAVE RAISED THE PURELY HUMANITARIAN ISSUE OF JEWISH EMIGRATION AS AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE ON-GOING EFFORTS TO ENHANCE CLOSER RELATIONS BETWEEN THE BIG POWERS. WE WERE VERY PLEASED INDEED THAT, AT ONE STAGE, AN UNDERSTANDING WAS IN FACT REACHED ON THIS ISSUE BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE UNITED STATES AND THE USSR. WE ARE EXCEEDINGLY SORRY, THEREFORE, THAT PROBLEMS OF CREDITS, AND POSSIBLY OTHER CONSIDERATIONS NOT NECESSARILY CONNECTED WITH THE HUMANITARIAN ISSUE OF JEWISH EMIGRATION, HAVE BROUGHT ABOUT THE DENUNCIATION BY THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT OF THE TRADE AGREEMENT. WE SINCERELY HOPE THAT THIS IS A TEMPORARY SITUATION AND THAT THE TWO BIG POWERS WILL SEEK AND FIND A SETTLEMENT OF ALL OUTSTANDING POINTS IN CONTROVERSY. WE HOPE, FURTHERMORE, THAT SOVIET JEWS WILL BE TREATED IN ACCORDANCE WITH OFFICIALLY PROCLAIMED ASSURANCES IN REGARD TO THEIR FREEDOM OF EMIGRATION.

"WE SHOULD PERHAPS STRESS THAT, UNFORTUNATELY, THERE IS A GAP BETWEEN OFFICIALLY PROCLAIMED ASSURANCES - GIVEN BY AUTHORITATIVE SPOKESMEN OF THE SOVIET UNION - AND ACTUAL IMPLEMENTATION. THUS, IN JUNE 1973, WHEN MR. LEONID I. BREZHNEV WAS IN WASHINGTON, HE STATED TO A GROUP OF SENATORS AND CONGRESSMEN THAT WELL OVER 95 PER CENT OF THE JEWS WHO HAD APPLIED TO LEAVE THE USSR HAD BEEN GRANTED EXIT PERMITS. IF THIS WERE A REFLECTION OF ACTUAL PRACTICE, MEN OF GOOD-WILL EVERYWHERE WOULD PRAISE THE SOVIET UNION FOR ITS RECORD...
END QTE.

4. IN FOLLOW UP CONVERSATION WITH AMBASSADOR RONN, US DEL RAISED QUESTION WHETHER HIS STATEMENT NEEDED INCLUDE QUOTED REFERENCE SINCE WITHOUT SUCH REFERENCE STATEMENT STILL GAVE COMPLETE AND EFFECTIVE DESCRIPTION OF PLIGHT OF SOVIET JEWRY. WE TOLD AMBASSADOR RONN THAT WE MADE THESE COMMENTS WITHOUT INSTRUCTIONS AND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 GENEVA 00935 131157Z

ONLY ON THE BASIS OF OUR OWN REACTION AND A JUDGMENT OF THE DISRUPTIVE EFFECT SUCH REFERENCE MIGHT HAVE DURING HRC DISCUSSION. AMB. RONN REPLIED THAT QUOTED PORTION WAS ONLY PART OF HIS STATEMENT WHICH HAD BEEN INCLUDED ON EXPRESS INSTRUCTIONS FROM JERUSALEM. HE EXPRESSED INTENTION TO QUERY JERUSALEM IN THE LIGHT OF OUR COMMENTS. HE UNDERSTOOD OUR COMMENTS WERE MADE ONLY AS A DELEGATION REACTION AND THAT WE WERE NOT

INSISTING UPON A DELETION.

5. COMMENT: ISRAELI STATEMENT MAY BE MADE AS
EARLY AS P.M. MEETING FEBRUARY 13. BASIS OF US DEL'S
COMMENTS REPORTED ABOVE WAS OUR FEAR THAT REFERENCE
TO US-USSR AGREEMENT WOULD INVOLVE THIS SENSITIVE
MATTER IN GENERAL SOVIET TIRADE WHICH WE EXPECT
ISRAELI STATEMENT TO PROVOKE. REMAINDER OF ISRAELI
STATEMENT IS STRONG ENOUGH ON SOVIET JEWRY PROBLEM
WITHOUT REFERENCE TO CIRCUMSTANCES OF US-USSR TRADE
AGREEMENT. DALE

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